

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03306 220235Z

11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 220210Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3977

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3306

EXDIS

NOFORN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL DANANG 21 MAR 75.
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION. QUOTE.

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0277

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PINT, VS
SUBJ: VIEWS OF HUE/THUA THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF

1. CONGEN'S HUE PROVINCE OFFICE DIRECTOR TALKED WITH THE PROVINCE
CHIEF/MAYOR OF THUA THIEN/HUE IN HUE THE MORNING OF MARCH 21
ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION. COL. NGUYEN HUU DUE TOLD POD
THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONVERSATION THAT MORNING WITH PRESIDENT
THIEU'S CHIEF OF CABINET AT WHICH TIME HE HAD ASKED FOR MEN AND
ARMOR. DUE SAID, "IF I CAN HOLD HUE FOR ONE MONTH, I CAN
HOLD".

2. COL. DUE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MY CHANH BRIDGE HAD
BEEN DESTROYED, VIEWING THAT MOVE AS POSSIBLY PREMATURE. DUE
SAID THAT HE HAD VISITED A BRIDGE A FEW KILOMETERS SOUTH OF THE
MY CHANH BRIDGE THE MORNING OF MARCH 21 AND HAD FOUND THAT
HIS RF WERE ALL THERE IN THEIR POSITIONS. HE SAID THAT THERE
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WAS NO PROBLEM THIS MORNING WITH HIS TROOPS WHEN HE WAS THERE

AT THIS BRIDGE AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE DECISION TO DESTROY
THE MY CHANH BRIDGE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE TOO HASTILY.

3. COL. DUE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THAT ONLY ABOUT 40
PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE IN THUA THIEN HAD SO FAR EVACUATED THE
PROVINCE. HE IS ALLOWING PEOPLE TO LEAVE, HE SAID,
AND FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO STAY HE IS PROVIDING SECURITY.

4. POD REPORTS THAT WHEN HE FLEW INTO HUE AT ABOUT 0800
HOURS MARCH 21 HE OBSERVED MANY BOATS, AND SAMPANS LEAVING
SOUTHERN THUA THIEN PROVINCE IN THE PHU LOC AREA FOR DANANG,
AND FOUR LSM'S LOADING MILITARY DEPENDENTS AT THUAN AN PORT
AT THE MOUTH OF THE PERFUME RIVER. IN HUE IT APPEARED THAT
THE CENTRAL MARKET WAS CLOSED -- THERE WERE NO PEOPLE VISIBLE
THERE. POD SAYS BOATS WERE LEAVING HUE'S "SAMPAN ALLEY" AND
THERE WERE NOT MANY 4-WHEEL VEHICLES IN HUE CITY. THE SENIOR
PROVINCE AND CITY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WERE PRESENT IN HUE AND
FUNCTIONING. PUBLIC ORDER IS BEING MAINTAINED. SIGNED FRANCIS. UNQUOT
E.
LEHMANN

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